

Mohannad "Max" Al Taqatqa

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► **City of Bloomington Planning and
Economic Division**

1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
Phone: 952-563-8920

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am requesting a conditional use permit to operate a retail shop selling firearms and ammunition at Countryside Shopping Center located at 10750 Bloomington Ferry Road, Suite 180, Bloomington MN 55438. My shop will be located in Countryside Center and will occupy approximately 794 square feet of retail space, including a storage room. Suite 180 has adequate restroom facilities with its own restroom, as well as restrooms in the common area lobby of the center. Countryside Center is adequately served with 160 parking spaces. Countryside Center is a Planned Development and the parking lot lighting is pursuant to an approved plan and agreement with the City of Bloomington. The proposed hours of operation of the business will be Sunday through Saturday, 9:00am-9:00pm. A large percentage of my business will be conducted online, reducing the foot traffic in and out of the retail shop. This particular site is ideal for a firearms and ammunition retail shop in Bloomington because no similar businesses exist in West Bloomington, although several exist in the neighboring suburbs of Savage, Shakopee and Eden Prairie.

The interior of my shop will consist of a slatted wall displaying long guns (all secured with individual trigger locks) to the left of the entrance. To the right of the entrance and stretching all the way to the back of the shop, there will be a glass display case with three glass shelves displaying handguns and available ammunition. The display cases are only accessible from the back (merchant side) and will be locked at all times, except when working with a customer. Behind the display cases, there will be several standing long gun wall displays holding more expensive or rare long guns. In my storage room, I will have two gun safes, each holding a maximum of 65 long guns. I will also have a state-of-the-art anti-theft security system alerting a private security company immediately of any break-ins or attempts at breaching the entry. Additionally, I will have installed a video surveillance system with a recorder and server cameras covering all areas of the retail area, storage area, hallways and entrance. I will be using ADT Security Services. Each night at closing time, all handguns will be removed from their displays and will be locked in the safes.

I will operate under the rules and regulations outlined by the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau (ATF) governing my Federal Firearms License (FFL), as well as the Code of the City of Bloomington and the guidelines associated with a conditional use permit. Although there is an entire book outlining the guidelines and regulations for the sale of firearms, generally there are two major rules to follow. First, only persons 18 years and older can purchase shotguns and only persons 21 years and older can purchase handguns and other long guns. Second, all buyers must be cleared by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a branch of


the FBI, before the seller can release the firearm into his/her possession. The NICS system will respond with an approval, denial or delay. In case of denial, the transaction will be cancelled. In case of delay, a response of approval or denial should come within three business days – at which time the seller will either release the firearm or cancel the transaction.

I will be the only licensed firearms dealer on the premises, but my employees will be required to pass an FBI background check. Only myself and approved persons will be responsible for the sale of firearms. As an FFL Licensee, I expect regular visits and compliance checks from both the local ATF officer and the Bloomington City Police Department. During these inspections and compliance checks, I will be required to provide access to my acquisition/disposition records, show required safety and security devices and show continued compliance with all local and federal laws governing the sale of firearms and ammunition. I would be happy to provide the Committee with a copy of the ATF guidelines for FFL Licensees, upon request.

The Bloomington City Code conditionally allows for the retail sales of firearms and ammunition in a B-2 (General Business) zone (see City Code Section 21.209). Further, Countryside Center at 10750 Bloomington Ferry Road is in a B-2 zone, pursuant to the city-zoning map. Other businesses leasing space in Countryside Center include: Westside Perk Coffee Shop, Scoops Ice Cream, Don Ho Restaurant, Zeke's Restaurant, Perrier Wine & Liquor, T Nails, Bush Lake Veterinary, Subway, Domino's Pizza, Seattle Sutton and Aly's Market. My space will be between Subway and a vacant shop. Several of the other businesses (where applicable) in Countryside Center have been approved by the City of Bloomington for conditional use permits and remain in compliance with the conditions set forth therein.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my application. I am sure that with the support of the City of Bloomington, my business located at Countryside Center will be successful for many years to come.

Sincerely,


Mohannad "Max" Al Taqatqa
Owner
Max Guns & Ammo L.L.C.
6/16/2015

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